"It's funny how much more people love each other when they are naked."

After that remark they never let him share his hath.

The number of things that are better left unsaid increases for me every day.

"Perhaps the most extraordinary thing about the need of the extraordinary is that, of all the needs of the mind, it is the easiest to satisfy/* (Nodier: *Ossianisme. — Examen critique des dictionnaires.*)[X1]

September

A frightful storm raged last night. This Friday I was to cross from Havre to Honfleur, meet Jean Schlumberger, and lunch with him. Thursday evening I send him a telegram to postpone the meeting.

Why weren't we at fitretat last night! Yesterday I thought of it but did not dare suggest it to Marcel and Gheon. Today Jeanne has to go there; I go with her.

The fishing boats are pulled up in the streets, and on the beach everything has been swept away. The sea, still very heavy, is withdrawing now. Yonder, in the direction of the Chaudron, a swarm of children and women are gathering up the wreckage of bathhouses, boardwalks, and springboards.

The big linden tree in the garden had its biggest branch broken; the whole garden seems devastated as a result; the sea wind has scorched the leaves and the rain rotted all the flowers.

November

Since 25 October 1901, the day on which I finished *VImmoraliste,* I have not seriously worked. My article on Wilde,[12] my lecture in Germany,[13] the recent one in Brussels (which did not amuse me and which I gave very badly)[14] don't count. A dull torpor of the

mind has made me vegetate for the last three years. Perhaps, busy in my garden, in daily contact with the plants, I have taken on their habits. The least sentence costs me an effort; talking, moreover, is almost as painful as writing. And I must admit too that I was becoming difficult: at the least suspicion of a thought, some cantankerous critic, always hiding deep in

[11] *Ossianism - Critical Examination of French Dictionaries* (1828).
[12] Written in December 1901 for the first anniversary of Wilde's death.
[13] *On the Importance of the Public,* given at Weimar on 5 August 1903.
[14] *The Evolution of the Theater,* given 25 March 1904.